



FRANKLIN COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU INC.

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August 11, 2026

The Honorable Matthew L. Homsher
Secretary, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 2nd Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Application of Transource Pennsylvania, LLC for Certificate of Public Convenience, Docket No. A-2026-3062675;
Application of Transource Pennsylvania, LLC for Siting Application for Franklin County, Docket No. A-2026-3062686;
Petition of Transource Pennsylvania, LLC for Zoning Exemption in Greene Township, Docket No. A-2026-3062687

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Franklin County Visitors Bureau respectfully opposes the referenced filings and provides this letter to outline concerns about siting the high-voltage transmission line through the core of Franklin County. In tourism, perception is value because visitors' decisions are based on perceptions. Visitors decide very quickly if they like what they see. If they like it, they explore further, delve deeper, stay an extra day, or plan a return visit. If they do not like it, they end their experience. The 29-mile high-power transmission line crosses high-quality and long-standing agricultural land, valued fishing waters, a documented corridor of the Underground Railroad, diverse bird and wetland habitats, more than 200 years of German history and plain faith culture, and an amazing view shed that visitors say reminds them of the countryside of Bavaria, Germany. Visitors choose Franklin County precisely because it is rural, scenic, and authentic. These qualities are not incidental—they are the foundation of our tourism economy.

Placer.ai data shows more than 1.5 million trips to Franklin County annually, bringing more than 100,000 visitors each month. In a year, visitors to Franklin County spend more than \$370 million, according to Tourism Economics. This project offers no demonstrated public benefit to Pennsylvania ratepayers, nor does it improve reliability or affordability for Franklin County residents. Franklin County Visitors Bureau is concerned about the impact this market efficiency project with no demonstrated public benefit will have on visitation to Franklin County. With reduced visitation comes reduced visitor spending. Franklin County is not an urban destination; it is a getaway from urban destinations, such as Washington DC and Philadelphia PA as well as our urban neighbors in Harrisburg, Lancaster, and York. Franklin County remains rural, according to the standards of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania. It has 194 people per square mile. The rural and agrarian character of the county attracts visitors. Our concern about the impact on tourism is particularly worrisome because Transource strives to override local land-use processes as in Docket No. A-2026-3062687. Local land-use protocols are not obstacles; they are essential safeguards that ensure industrial infrastructure does not undermine existing economic sectors or the character of place. They provide coordination, protection, and bring balance to allow for character of place—essential to Franklin County tourism. Franklin County is a county that has worked thoughtfully to bring industry and manufacturing while respecting existing industry. It sees value in ensuring that the county remains a good place to live, work, and recreate. It has strategically worked toward a balanced path of economic vitality and character of place, attentive to healthy grown and striving to maintain corridors of agriculture and tourism.

The proposed line spans 29-miles with five to seven, 135-ft. tall towers proposed to be placed in each mile. Consider the county's overall proportions. Franklin County extends approximately 38 miles from the northernmost point of Juniata County to the Mason Dixon Line at the Maryland border. From east to west, it spans about 34 miles from Fulton County to Adams County. A 29-mile transmission line of significant height will impact a major portion of Franklin County. The

project will have substantial impacts that will literally change the face of Franklin County. Framed by South Mountain on the east and Tuscarora Mountain and Kittatinny Ridge on the west, the mountains give the county's dramatic horizons and scenic overlooks. The lowland of the valley, composed of softer limestone and shale, offers the rolling landscape giving Franklin County so much of its picturesque views. The siting bisects the entire county and impacts productive farms, karst aquifers, and the soil itself. Agricultural land is working land. Even without structures, it produces economic value, ecological stability, and cultural continuity. Agriculture is a key part of Franklin County's economy, and disregard to the impact on the farming industry affects the entire economy of Franklin County

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania codified the importance of the landscape and all it provides to generation after generation by adopting an Environmental Amendment to the PA Constitution.

"The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people." --Article I, Section 27

These scenic, historic, and esthetic values are not abstract—they are the very resources upon which Franklin County's tourism economy depends.

After decades of working to balance growth and maintain quality of life, the Transource project stands to set a course Franklin County did not plan. Franklin County Visitors Bureau requests the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to deny the Transource application for Certificate of Convenience, deny the Transource application for siting, and deny the petition for exemption from zoning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janet Pollard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janet Pollard
Executive Director